

BISHOPTHORPE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.

1917.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE
BISHOPTHORPE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR 1917.

To the Chairman and Members of the Bishopthorpe
Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting for your consideration my Report for the year 1917.

The Area of the District is 5,550 acres.

The estimated population is 2,116.

BIRTH-RATE.

The births registered are 36, 15 males and 21 females; none were illegitimate. The birth-rate is 17·0 per 1,000 of the population. In 1916 it was 14·6.

DEATH-RATE.

The deaths registered are 19, 15 males and 4 females, giving a death-rate of 8·9 per 1,000 of the population. Four of the deaths were non-residents. In 1916 the rate was 8·5. Four residents died outside the District.

Of all the Urban and Rural District Councils in the West Riding, the death-rate in the Bishopthorpe Rural District was the lowest, or lowest but one, in 1916. This year it is only a fraction above the same rate.

The Zymotic death-rate is ·9.

The infantile mortality rate is 2·8 per 1,000 of the population and 162 per 1,000 births registered. In 1916 it was 64. Four of the 6 deaths were of 1 month or under; 2 of the 6 deaths were premature births, 1 was due to accident, 2 Pneumonia, and 1 Tubercular.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

There were 19 deaths in the District as follows:—Cancer, 2; Heart Diseases, 2; Pneumonia, 2; Tubercular Diseases, 3; Bright's Disease, 1; Accidents, 2; Drowned, 3; Premature Birth, 2; other defined diseases, 2.

Residents who died outside the District were as follows:—Senile Decay, 1; Periostitis, 1; Phthisis, 1; the latter was only temporarily resident in the District. Of the 19 deaths, six were under 1 year of age, one between 1 and 5, three between 15 and 25, seven between 25 and 65, and two over 65 years of age.

CASES REPORTED UNDER THE NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACT.

Scarlet Fever, 3; Diphtheria, 2; Phthisis, 1; other tubercular diseases, 1; Measles, 42. Total 49. In 1916 there were 28.

SCARLET FEVER, 3, in 1916 there were 3 cases. The first two cases occurred at Askham Richard, in adjoining houses, both girls, aged 5 and 8 years respectively. In the first case notified no definite history was obtainable apart from the fact that Scarlet Fever had occurred in this house a year or two previously. The second, which was from the adjoining house, had evidently contracted the disease through "contact." Several sanitary defects were ordered to be remedied. The first case was removed to the Acomb Isolation Hospital, the other being efficiently isolated at home. The third was a girl, 8 years of age, in the North-Eastern Terrace, Dringhouses. The patient was removed on the following day to the Acomb Isolation Hospital. I could trace no history as to the origin. A case of Scarlet Fever occurred in this house some years ago.

DIPHTHERIA (2 cases). The first was a girl, 12 years of age at Dringhouses. She was removed the following day, November 18th, to the Isolation Hospital. On my visit I found the house exceedingly damp but no other sanitary defects. The second was an imported case at Bishopthorpe. The patient, a girl 15 years of age, attended a school in York and had been sitting next to a girl who was found to be suffering from Diphtheria.

TUBERCULOSIS. On September 12th a woman, 30 years of age, was reported from Copmanthorpe suffering from Phthisis, the case proved fatal. The second case, also fatal, was a baby 4 weeks old, notified as Tabes Mesenterica in a farm house at Dringhouses.

MEASLES AND GERMAN MEASLES, 42 cases against 19 in 1916. Twenty-five were notified from Dringhouses, 11 from Bishopthorpe, 3 from Copmanthorpe, and 3 from Askham Richard. Thirty-four were under 12 years of age, and eight between 16 and 30. The disease generally was of a mild type, there were no fatal cases. I visited a large number of the infected houses, and advised the parents and the teachers at the schools as to precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of the disease. The usual method has been carried out in regard to the disinfection of houses, bedding, clothing, etc., in Tubercular and other notifiable infectious cases.

CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS.

Dringhouses School (Infants' Department) was closed from February 1st to the 22nd, on account of Scabies, Chicken Pox, and Influenza.

Askham Richard School was closed from April 11th to 25th on account of Measles.

Dringhouses School was closed from May 2nd to 16th for Measles.

Bishopthorpe School was closed from May 28th to June 29th for Measles.

REARING OF INFANTS.

I would again advise the Council to have the pamphlet by Dr. Kaye, the County Medical Officer of Health, on the " Rearing of Infants," re-distributed throughout the District. The advice given in this pamphlet is of real value. Great interest is being taken throughout the country on this subject at the present time, and everything possible should be done to reduce the infantile mortality. The exceptionally high mortality rate this year is not, I am pleased to say, due to any neglect or want of advice, but to unavoidable causes as are seen by the death returns.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

This is carried out under the supervision of Dr. Kaye with excellent results. By the systematic inspection of school children, numerous defects are found and many remedied, these, if unattended to, would have led to serious results. The general health of school children is consequently much improved throughout the District.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.

During the war this Act is not being carried out systematically in the District. Improvements as to defective ashpits, privies, drains, etc., have, however, had attention during the year.

WAR TIME ARRANGEMENTS.

Arrangements are in force for close co-operation with the Military Medical Officers in assisting them in any sanitary or protective measures that might be thought advisable in the District. All cases of infectious disease in proximity to camps and troops are at once notified to the Principal Medical Officer. The health of the troops stationed in the District has been quite satisfactory.

TABLES.

No Tables of Statistics are being issued by the Local Government Board this year, but as they will be required after the war I am tabulating them as heretofore.

I am, Mr. Chairman, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ALWYN RAIMES, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.